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the middle and tapering more rapidly towards each end. It is of a dark horn brown. Length 37mm, breadth 5½mm.—*A. S. Packard, Jr.*

DESCENT OF DYTISCUS DURING A SHOWER.—In the October No. of Vol. 3, *American Entomologist*, mention is made of a "veritable shower" of water-beetles, supposed to be a species of *Dytiscus*, as having occurred in a certain locality in Kentucky during the summer of 1880. I am reminded of this phenomenon by the singular manner in which some of my friends came into possession of two remarkably fine specimens of *Dytiscus fasciventris* Say. Just after one of our light September showers, a goblet, that had been left on the outer ledge of a window, was found pretty full of the fresh rain-water in which were swimming about, in apparent content, the two water-beetles referred to.

How they came there was the question—the opinion prevailing that they "rained down." They could not have bred within a considerable distance from the house where they alighted, and the fact that they dropped into the glass of water was also most singular. They made no attempt to escape from the glass and lived there until the water was frozen late in November. No food was given them except that the water was occasionally replenished. Is it known to be a habit of this insect to rise into the air at certain times on the approach of, or during the progress of a shower?—*Mary E. Murtfeldt, Kirkwood, Mo.*

ANTHROPOLOGY.[1]

A WELL MERITED HONOR.—It will be a source of gratification to the many friends of Professor Charles Rau, the Nestor of American archæologists, to learn that the University of Friburg has conferred upon him the honorary title of Doctor of Philosophy.

A CORRECTION.—In looking over the contents of the last number of the *American Antiquarian*, we were astonished to find that Dr. Yarrow, who has come to be our standard authority on dead Indians, should turn aside to treat of the superstitions of *live* Indians. We have the doctor's permission to state that his paper in the *Antiquarian* was upon the superstitions of the Sioux Indians.

THE WASHINGTON SATURDAY LECTURES.—By the joint action of the Anthropological and the Biological Society of Washington, in February last, a course of eight free lectures at the National Museum was organized. Four of them were upon anthropology and its kindred topics, with the following titles: March 18—What is Anthropology? by Professor Otis T. Mason; April 1—Outlines of Sociology, by Major J. W. Powell; April 15—Paul Broca and the French School of Anthropology, by Dr.

[1] Edited by Professor OTIS T. MASON, 1305 Q. street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

Robert Fletcher; and April 29 — How we see, by Dr. Swan M. Burnett. The lectures of Mason, Powell and Burnett were on topics somewhat familiar to our readers. They are all published separately by Judd & Detweiler, and will appear in a volume when the course is completed. On account of the freshness of the subject and the great care bestowed upon the production, the lecture of Dr. Fletcher deserves more than a passing notice. The avowed object of the speaker was to state, not what is anthropology, but "the reason of its existence, and the circumstances attending its establishment and recognition in the scientific world." A brief reference is made to separate branches of the study even in classic times, but the origination of the science as a whole is taken from the foundation of the Paris Society of Anthropology, some twenty-three years ago (1859). The associations devoted to kindred branches and to anthropology, are:

La Société des observateurs de l'homme, Paris. 1800.
La Société philanthropique, Paris. 1803.
The Society for the protection of Aborigines, London. 1838.
La Société Ethnologique de Paris. 1839.
The American Ethnological Society. 1842.
The Ethnological Society of London. 1844.
La Société d'anthropologie de Paris. 1859.
Versammlung der Anthropologen in Göttingen. 1861.
The Anthropological Society of London. 1863.
The Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland. 1871.
La Sociedad de anthropologia de Madrid. 1865.
The Imperial Society of anthropology and ethnology, Moscow. 1866.
Berliner Gesellschaft für Anthropologie, &c. 1868.
Anthropologische Gesellschaft in Wien. 1870.
Societa italiana di antropologia, &c. 1871.
The Anthropological Institute of New York. 1871.
Academy of Sciences, Cracow, Poland. 1877.
The Anthropological Society of Washington. 1879.
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Anthropologie, Ethnologie und Urgeschichte. 1870.
Congres international d'anthropologie et archéologie préhistorique. 1865.

The publications of these societies are also indicated.

The biography of Broca is drawn mainly from the article of Professor Pozzi in the *Revue d'Anthropologie*. Broca, among his many talents, had a great deal of ingenuity for devising mechanical helps. Among those noticed are the *craniograph*, the *new goniometer*, the *stereograph*, *cadre à maxima*, *micrometric compass*, *occipital goniometer*, *cranioscope*, *porte-empreinte intra-cranien*, *endograph*, *millimetric roulette*, *endometer*, *sphenoidal crochet*, *optic sound*, *pachymeter*, *turcica crochet*, *craniosphore*, *craniostat*, *facial demi-goniometer*, *auricular goniometer*, *flexible bi-auricular square*, *cyclometer*, *facial median goniometer*, *orthogon*, *goniometer of inclination*, *flexible goniometer* and *tropometer*.

Paul Broca was the founder of the Société d'Anthropologie de Paris (19th May, 1859), the *Revue d'Anthropologie*, the Laboratory of Anthropology, and the Ecole d'Anthropologie, united in the Institute d'Anthropologie. The total number of his printed

articles and volumes is 534, of which 109 are on comparative anatomy and general anthropology, 48 on general craniology, 35 on special craniology, 27 on ethnology, and 19 on miscellaneous subjects.

As mentioned above, the Saturday lectures can be procured from Judd & Detweiler, of Washington, at 75 cents for the volume containing the whole course.

GEOLOGY AND PALÆONTOLOGY.

LESQUEREUX ON THE TERTIARY FLORA AS RELATED TO THE TERTIARY ANIMALS OF THE WEST.—In regard to Professor Cope's recent papers on the Cretaceous and Tertiary groups of the Western Territories, Mr. Lesquereux writes us that he has carefully examined his conclusions and must say that he approves them fully and that they agree well with his own. "As to the Laramie group, while I call it Eocene, Cope must decide according to the animal remains. I must stick to the plants. The difference is only in name and it will be better understood hereafter. For the so-called Green river group, I have always found a great difference of type between the plants of Green river station, including Alkali station, and those of White river, Florissant and Elko. I therefore readily admit, as I have already done, two different stages of this group, as indicated by the plants. A lower one for Green river station and Alkali and an upper stage for that of White river, so far we agree.

"But now let us see what the Miocene will say. From the Laramie group upwards there is already a number of permanent types recognized in subsequent formations. There is a marked identity between the plants of the Laramie group and those of the Union group, and then between those of the last group and White river, we find the Lower Miocene very clearly characterized, then follows the Middle Miocene or the Carbon and Alaska groups, and then the upper Miocene or Pliocene of the Chalk bluffs of California. All these facts considering the character of the plants, constitute by persistent species a continuous flora which it is extremely difficult to separate. Indeed if we admit that all the plants described from the Union group represent the same geological stage, we can scarcely draw any lines of separation for the Tertiary, which continues uninterruptedly from the Eocene of Black Butte and Golden City to the flora of our present epoch. Thus our present living flora would appear quite as Cretaceous in some of its characters as that of Golden City.—*F. V. Hayden.*

THE GEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY OF CANADA.—The Report of Progress of this Survey for 1879–80 forms a bulky octavo, accompanied by five maps of the regions explored, and illustrated by nineteen plates. The work of the Geological corps in 1880 embraced surveys in the Northwest Territories, Manitoba,